Please amend the application as follows:

In the Claims

Please amend Claims 16, 17 and 61-64, and add new Claims 85-88. Amendments to the claims are indicated in the attached "Marked Up Version of Amendments" (pages i - ii).

16. (Five Times Amended) An isolated human CXC Chemokine Receptor 3 (CXCR3) protein or functional variant thereof, wherein said CXCR3 protein or functional variant binds one or more chemokines selected from the group consisting of IP-10 and Mig, and is encoded by a nucleic acid which hybridizes to a second nucleic acid selected from the group consisting of the complement of SEQ ID NO:1 and the complement of the open reading frame of SEQ ID NO:1 under high stringency wash conditions of 2X SSC, 0.1% SDS at room temperature for ten minutes followed by two washes in 1X SSC, 0.1% SDS at 65°C for thirty minutes and a final wash in 0.5X SSC, 0.1% SDS at 65°C for ten minutes.

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17. (Four Times Amended) The isolated human CXCR3 protein or functional variant thereof of Claim 16, wherein said CXCR3 protein or functional variant binds one or more chemokines selected from the group consisting of human IP-10 and human Mig.

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61. (Four Times Amended) A fusion protein comprising a human CXC Chemokine Receptor 3 (CXCR3) protein or functional variant thereof, wherein said CXCR3 protein or functional variant binds one or more chemokines selected from the group consisting of IP-10 and Mig, and is encoded by a nucleic acid which hybridizes to a second nucleic acid selected from the group consisting of the complement of SEQ ID NO:1 and the complement of the open reading frame of SEQ ID NO:1 under high stringency wash conditions of 2X SSC, 0.1% SDS at room temperature for ten minutes followed by two washes in 1X SSC, 0.1% SDS at 65°C for thirty minutes and a final wash in 0.5X SSC, 0.1% SDS at 65°C for ten minutes.

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62. (Twice Amended) The fusion protein of Claim 61, wherein said CXCR3 protein or functional variant binds one or more chemokines selected from the group consisting of human IP-10 and human Mig.

63. (Twice Amended) An isolated human CXC Chemokine Receptor 3 (CXCR3) protein or functional variant thereof, wherein the amino acid sequence of said CXCR3 protein or functional variant is at least about 90% identical to that of the protein shown in Figure 2 (SEQ ID NO:2), said CXCR3 protein or functional variant comprises the extracellular N-terminal segment of the protein shown in Figure 2 (SEQ ID NO:2), and said CXCR3 protein or functional variant binds one or more chemokines selected from the group consisting of IP-10 and Mig.

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64. (Twice Amended) A fusion protein comprising a human CXC Chemokine Receptor 3 (CXCR3) protein or functional variant thereof, wherein the amino acid sequence of said CXCR3 protein or functional variant is at least about 90% identical to that of the protein shown in Figure 2 (SEQ ID NO:2), said CXCR3 protein or functional variant comprises the extracellular N-terminal segment of the protein shown in Figure 2 (SEQ ID NO:2), and said CXCR3 protein or functional variant binds one or more chemokines selected from the group consisting of IP-10 and Mig.

85. (New) The isolated human CXCR3 protein or functional variant thereof of Claim 16, wherein said human CXCR3 protein or functional variant induces a rapid and transient increase in the concentration of intracellular free calcium ($[Ca^{2+}]_i$) and/or chemotaxis upon chemokine binding.

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86. (New) The fusion protein comprising a human CXCR3 protein or functional variant thereof of Claim 61, wherein said human CXCR3 protein or functional variant induces a rapid and transient increase in the concentration of intracellular free calcium ($[Ca^{2+}]_i$) and/or chemotaxis upon chemokine binding.

87. (New) The isolated human CXCR3 protein or functional variant thereof of Claim 63, wherein said human CXCR3 protein or functional variant induces a rapid and transient increase in the concentration of intracellular free calcium ($[Ca^{2+}]_i$) and/or chemotaxis upon chemokine binding.

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88. (New) The fusion protein comprising a human CXCR3 protein or functional variant thereof of Claim 64, wherein said human CXCR3 protein or functional variant induces a rapid and transient increase in the concentration of intracellular free calcium ($[Ca^{2+}]_i$) and/or chemotaxis upon chemokine binding.

REMARKS

Claims 16, 17 and 61-64 have been amended and new Claims 85-88 have been added to the application.

Support for new Claims 85-88 is found througout the application, for example, at page 15, lines 15-27.

The amended claims and new claims are supported by the application as filed. Therefore, this amendment adds no new matter.

Rejection of Claims 16, 17 and 61-84 Under 35 U.S.C. § 112, Second Paragraph

Claims 16, 17 and 61-84 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. The Examiner states that the claims are indefinite in reciting "cellular signaling and/or cellular response." (Office Action at page 3, lines 1-8.)

Independent Claims 16, 61, 63 and 64 have been amended to delete the language the Examiner objects to, thereby obviating the rejection.